



**Figure 1**

Photomicrographs from sagittal spinal cord section at the lesion site where the collagen tube (star) was inserted. The immunodetection of Neurofilament (NF), performed on control rats (A, B) revealed the absence of nerve fibers and connective tissue within the collagen channel (Star) from both rostral (r) and caudal (c) stumps of the lesioned spinal cord.



**Figure 2**

Neurofilament-immunopositive fibers growing within a collagen tube containing pep1 from the rostral (A) as well as the caudal (B) border of the spinal lesion. As indicated by the white arrow, nerve fibers were able to regenerate up to 2 mm into the collagen channel 10 days after surgery. High magnification of a NF-positive nerve fibers (C) pointed out in A with the white arrow. Scale bars: A, B: 250 mm.